

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS : SCUL, SG

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN - U. S. TRACK MEET

REF: A) YAOUNDE 0845; B) DAKAR 1016

1. APPRECIATE CONCERN EXPRESSED REFTELS. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH AAU ON SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY SCSA IN FULFILLING TERMS OF CONTRACT. ALTHOUGH PICTURE IS NOT YET ENTIRELY CLEAR, IT APPEARS THAT SCSA OVEREXTENDED ITSELF IN PROMISING TO HOST MEET ONLY TWO YEARS AFTER DURHAM COMPETITION. REALIZING HIGH COST OF ANY SUCH VENTURE, AAU OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY URGED AFRICANS TO SCHEDULE MEET LESS OFTEN, POSSIBLY ONLY EVERY FOUR YEARS AS PRELUDE TO OLYMPIC COMPETITION, BUT AFRICANS WERE INSISTENT ON MORE FREQUENT ARRANGEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, SCSA HAS APPARENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD SOME TERMS OF AGREEMENT WITH AAU. ACCORDING TO AAU'S OLLAN CASSELL, SCSA IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR DIFFERENCE IN COST BETWEEN TRANSPORTING AMERICAN TEAM DIRECTLY FROM EUROPE TO THE US AND TRANSPORTING IT FROM
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EUROPE VIA DAKAR TO THE US. WE HAVE NO EXACT FIGURES, BUT THIS IS LIKELY TO RUN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF DOLS 30,000 RATHER THAN THE DOLS 50 TO 60,000 REQUESTED BY SCSA. ALSO UNCLEAR IS SCSA ROLE IN FINANCING MEET. FROM REF B IT APPEARS THAT GOS HAS TAKEN ON BY FAR MAJOR SHARE OF BURDEN. AS FAR AS TELEVISION RIGHTS ARE CONCERNED, AAU SAYS AGREEMENT GIVES SCSA RIGHTS ON WORLDWIDE BASIS EXCEPT FOR US. AAU BELIEVES THAT US NETWORKS WILL NOT WISH COVER MEET BECAUSE OF HIGH COST; PROBABLY IN EXCESS OF DOLS 100,000, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY AAU UNLIKELY EARN ANY BENEFIT FROM THIS PART OF AGREEMENT WITH SCSA. SOME OF FOREGOING EXPLAINED TO GOS AMB COULBARY DURING MEETING AT DEPARTMENT MARCH 14 AND HE REPORTING TO GOS.

2. TO CLARIFY THESE AND OTHER ISSUES CONNECTED WITH MEET, DEPARTMENT PLANS SEND DR. LEROY T. WALKER OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AS STAG ON LIAISON VISIT TO DAKAR AND YAOUNDE. WALKER, A FORMER OLYMPIC COACH, PERFORMED SIMILAR ROLE IN 1971 IN PREPARATION FOR DURHAM MEET. HE IS WELL- KNOWN AND HIGHLY REGARDED IN SCSA AND OTHER AFRICAN SPORTS CIRCLES AND HAS CONFIDENCE OF DEPARTMENT AND AAU. VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, BUT WE WILL NEED CONFIRMATION THAT PRINCIPAL SENEGALESE AND SCSA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GANGA, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION.

3. WALKER VISIT WOULD ESTABLISH A NEEDED PERSONAL LINK THAT MAY HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE AMERICAN SUPPORT. HE WOULD MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS- MEN' S GROUP UPON HIS RETURN. WALKER CAN ALSO ASSIST AFRICANS WITH ANY TECHNICAL MATTERS THEY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SUCH AS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS. HIS VISIT WOULD SHOW OUR CONCERN AND PERHAPS HELP RESTORE THE GOODWILL GENERATED BY THE 1971 MEET.

4. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT SOONEST. DECONTROL 3/16/74. ROGERS

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